



Mountain Flyer



Lt Col David C. Brooks
Interim Wing Commander

Capt Jeffrey E. Schrock, Director of Public Affairs
Maj Amelia G. Brooks, Editor

Volume 2005 Number 3

CALENDAR

8-9 Oct CLC Course—
Clarksburg HQ

14-16 Oct MER SAR Col-
lege—Ft. Pickett, VA

15-21 Oct CAP National
Staff College—Maxwell
AFB, AL

22 Oct WV Wing Confer-
ence, Banquet, and
Change of Command
Ceremony—Marriott Ho-
tel, Charleston, WV

5 Nov Flight Clinic—
Clarksburg

18-22 Nov SAREX
Martinsburg and Lewis-
burg

2-4 Dec Cadet Leadership
School—Mine Academy,
Beckley

9-14 SAREX Bluefield
and Wheeling

28 Dec—4 Jan SAREX—
Parkersburg

Acknowledgement

*Thank you all for
your help and support
over the past four
years in making the
Mountain Flyer a
publication that we
can be proud of to tell
the story of the mem-
bers of the West Vir-
ginia Wing*

Major Amy Brooks
Editor

Lt Col Rodney A. Moore WV Wing Commander for 2005-2009

Major Amelia G. Brooks
Editor, Mountain Flyer

On the evening of 22 October 2005, Lt Col David C. Brooks will hand over Command of the West Virginia Wing to Lt Col Rodney A. Moore.

Lt Col Moore started his career in Civil Air Patrol as a Cadet, and has thirty-seven years of experience in Civil Air Patrol. The experience he brings to Command the Wing stems from his service as Commander of the Clarksburg Composite Squadron. As Commander of the Clarksburg Squadron, Lt Col Rod Moore accomplished every goal he set out to reach during his tenure. He

increased the membership of Seniors 75% and the unit Cadet membership 71%. In the Aerospace Education Program, his Squadron enjoyed annual trips to the AirVenture Air show, at Oshkosh, WI and the United States Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH. The Emergency Services capability has reached a superior level under his Command. There are twelve mission pilots, fifteen observers, twenty-four mission scanners, six ground team leaders and fourteen ground team members at his call and command.

Col Rod Moore has worked every aspect of the CAP program. His fund raising ranged from corporate grants, local and federal campaigns to the state of WV. Lt Col Moore has sought and has received enough funds to improve the Clarksburg CAP facility to a level to be proud of.

Under Col Moore, the Clarksburg Composite Squadron has excelled and is an example for all other units in the Wing. They have recently earned the following honors: WV Wing Squadron of the Year in 2001 and 2004. The ES Air Support Award in 2000 and 2004, and the ES Ground Support Award in 2000.

In regard to his Emergency Services and Pilot ratings, Lt Col Moore is at the top of the list, he is an active Incident Commander, Mission Pilot, Mission Observer, Mission Scanner, Ground Team Leader, and CAP Command Pilot, Check Pilot, Instructor Pilot, Mission Check Pilot, Cadet Orientation Pilot and is Counterdrug Aircrew qualified. Lt Col Moore's service and training awards are numerous; he received the Gill Robb Wilson Award #2323, the Exceptional Service Award, several Commander's Commendations. Additional CAP training includes the National Staff College and the Unit Commander's Course. Lt Col Moore has a Commercial Pilot Instrument Airplane license, is a Certified Instructor, Instrument Airplane and is a Solo Glider Pilot.

He graduated, cum laude, from WVU in 1975; and is a Reclamation Specialist for the US Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining, Morgantown, WV.

After you have read all that Col Moore brings to the WV Wing Command, it will not be hard to realize that his credentials say it all. The WV Wing will certainly be in the hands of a highly pro-active and experienced officer. In his own words, Lt Col Moore, "envisioning a growing and dynamic, WV Wing and pledges to be a leader who recognizes the valuable contributions of all WV Wing members."



West Virginia Wing Commander Col Rodney F. Moody Named National Controller for Civil Air Patrol

Capt Jeffery E. Schrock
Director of Public Affairs
West Virginia Wing

The National Board of the Civil Air Patrol confirmed Maj. Gen. Antonio J. Pineda's selections for staff officers during the Air Force auxiliary's national conference held in St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 17-20.

The staff officers are National Chief of Staff Col. Larry D. Kauffman of Hainesport, NJ; National Finance Officer Col. Fredric K. Weiss of Holland, Pa.; National Legal Officer Col. J. Rock Palermo III, of Sulphur, La.; **and National Controller Col. Rodney F. Moody of Sophia, W.Va.**

Chief of Chaplain Service Col. Charles E. Sharp of Pine Bluff, Ark., and Inspector General Col. William S. Charles II, of Novi, Mich., will remain in their respective positions. Col. Moody previously was Wing Commander for the West Virginia Wing Civil Air Patrol. Prior to serving as Wing Commander, Col. Moody held several CAP staff positions. He started his career in CAP when he joined the Jon McBride Composite Squadron. He was the emergency services officer, logistics officer, and deputy commander for seniors for that squadron.

Later he was appointed the disaster preparedness officer, search and rescue officer, assistant emergency services officer, director of emergency services, chief of staff, vice commander, and interim commander for the WV Wing.

He has also been the WV Wing Liaison Officer for the MER Mountain Flying Clinic for several years. His CAP decorations and awards include the Meritorious Service (1 bronze clasp), Commander's Commendation (2 silver clasp), Certificate of Recognition for Lifesaving, Gill Robb Wilson (CAP's highest academic award), Brig Gen Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager Aerospace Education Achievement Award, WV Wing Commander's Special Commendation (twice), and the National Cadet Competition Ribbon.

Colonel Moody's training has been extensive. He has attended the Commander Course (Maxwell AFB), National Staff College, SOS, Squadron Commander's Workshop, ICS for Executives, WV EOS Introduction to Emergency Management, AFRCC Search and Rescue Management Course, CD Orientation Course, MER SAR College, Licensed Amateur Radio Operator, NAUI Open water Scuba Diver, American Red Cross Introduction to Disaster, Damage Assessment, and Shelter Operations. He is a mission Incident Commander.

Colonel Rodney F. Moody and his wife, Connie Moody, also a CAP member, are retired and live in Sophia, West Virginia.



Senior and Cadet Training Awards

Gill Robb Wilson Award: Lt Col Rodney A. Moore, WV038

Grover Loening Award: Maj Dallas Swepston, WV100

BG Chuck Yeager Award: Capt Gerald Wedemeyer, WV038

Gen Ira C. Eaker Award: Cadt Roger Pettit, WV013

Gen Billy Mitchell Award: Jared Gragan, WV040; Patrick Gragan, WV040;

Jeremiah Morgan, WV100; Austin Ross, WV040; Justin Ross, WV040

Final Salute

Lt Col James R. Atkinson, WV049

West Virginia Wing Alerted for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Disaster Relief Missions

Lt Col Eugene Thorn
Director of Emergency Services
West Virginia Wing

On 28 August 2005 the Middle East Region, which includes the West Virginia Wing, was put on standby alert for possible disaster relief duty in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The hurricane hit the coast of Louisiana and Mississippi on Monday 29 August.

Following an Operations Alert issued by the ES Directorate of the WV Wing, squadrons throughout the state began to gear up for possible disaster relief tasking. It was decided that the West Virginia Wing would form a Ground Team from those members who indicated that they could leave their employment for a week or more to participate in relief work as needed in the Katrina disaster area. Work to pull this team together began on Wednesday morning after the extent of damage caused by the hurricane was known.

A total of eighteen members answered the initial call for ground team members and ground team leaders. In addition to ground teams, there were several aircrew members who answered the call to action. These CAP members came from nearly all WV squadrons, and from those members a ready alert aircrew and ground team were formed. The aircrew was to be on a 24 hour notice of alert and the ground team was to be on a 48 hour notice of alert.

The aircrew was made up of members of the Martinsburg Composite Squadron, and the ground team was made up of members from the Clarksburg Composite Squadron, the Beckley Composite Squadron and the Morgantown Composite Squadron. These members were prepared to leave their homes and families for a period of a week or more and go to Mississippi, Louisiana or Texas to do whatever was necessary to relieve the suffering of the survivors of the hurricanes. The first aircrew chosen included Lt Col Shelton Davis, Maj Barclay (Bart) Rogers, and Capt Thomas Hoffman. The first ground team chosen included Lt Col Rodney Moore, 1Lt Christopher Thorn, 1Lt John Strovers, 2Lt Rocco Rossetti, 2Lt William Burdick (Clarksburg), Maj Donald Robbins, Capt Douglas Efaw (Morgantown), Capt David Chaney, 1Lt James Childress and 1Lt Thomas Plass (Beckley). In addition to the members of the first air and ground crews, several members of these, and other, squadrons were held in reserve in the event that the WV Wing was required to provide additional support for the disaster operations.

The ground team was informed that it would need to be self sufficient in the field, meaning that everything needed to support the team, including food, water, shelter, communications and personal comfort would have to be taken with them at the time of deployment from their homes. This accomplishment required a tremendous effort on the part of many of the team members as well as many members from squadrons not providing members for the team. Food for the team would require 140 MRE's and 140 gallons of drinking and washing water, plus necessary tents, cots, sleeping bags, medical supplies, extra gasoline and many other items. Thanks to the Morgantown Squadron, all of the necessary food most of the water and cots were available in their local inventory. The Mercer and Beckley Squadrons supplied the tents, the Clarksburg Squadron supplied the sleeping bags, generator and other items. Two extra vehicles were needed, and these were obtained from the Mercer Squadron and Wing Headquarters. All of the necessary equipment was put in a staging area located at the Clarksburg Squadron headquarters building.

The members who answered the call to help in this disaster are to be commended for their professionalism and commitment to the principles of the search and rescue doctrine, and to the Civil Air Patrol's program of performing Missions for America. In the words of Lt Col Dale Olsen, the WV IMA, "This we do, that others may live" means more than just words on a patch. It means that when others are in jeopardy, Civil Air Patrol members will answer the call to action no matter where the duty is required.

At the time of this writing, the members of the air and ground teams from West Virginia were still on alert for immediate deployment.

Senior Member Promotions

To Lieutenant Colonel: Thomas Hager, WV040

To Major: Kevin Ray, WV001; Donald Robbins, WV060; Bradford Williams, WV020

To Captain: Thomas Hoffmann, WV020; Walter Mercer, WV040; Robert Smith, WV100;
Lawrence Stahl, WV020; Toni Wrightsman, WV030

West Virginia Wing Conducts First Annual Search and Rescue Competition

Lt Col Eugene Thorn
Director of Emergency Services
West Virginia Wing

During the weekend of 10-12 July 2005 the West Virginia Wing held its first annual SAR Competition Mission at Grant County Airport in Petersburg, WV. The competition was designed to test the skills of both aircrews and ground teams, and was done in such a way as to allow the various teams to compete against a specified course. The air course had many targets, including a target that looked like an aircraft crash. The ground course had several miles of land travel using specific compass headings and distances, as well as a search for the target that was used for the aircrew competition.

Five aircrews and two ground teams participated in the competition. Aircrews came from Martinsburg, Wheeling, Clarksburg and Parkersburg; ground teams came from Morgantown and Clarksburg.

The air course was a route search from the Grant County Airport to Franklin, then to Mouth of Seneca, then to Harman, then to Parsons, then to Davis. From Davis, the course then went to a specified Grid for a search to find the "crash". After exiting the grid, the aircrew was sent to Kessel Omni and the aircrew had to fly a specified heading off of Kessel to a specific point and then do a two mile offset course to another point, and then back to Grant County. This was a timed course, with very little extra time for target acquisition.

The ground course started at the Grant County Airport and went to the top of Backbone Mountain on Dolly Sods. From the starting point the teams were given a series of instructions in sealed envelopes, each of which gave very specific compass headings and distances to the next point. The entire course covered approximately five miles, however the opinion of the members who completed the tasks was that the course was closer to ten miles. In addition to the compass course, there was an ELT search that was done after dark.

Included in both the air, and ground competition was a written test covering various points in CAP Regulations 60-1 and 60-3. The test was taken by one member of each aircrew and ground team, without the help of either the regulation or help from other members of the teams.

All of the members of the aircrews and ground teams can be proud of what they accomplished. The course was designed to be tough. It required the skill of every member of the team to complete it satisfactorily. Every aircrew and every ground team was a winner in one or more phases of the competition. Overall winners will be announced at the Wing Conference.

The West Virginia Wing can be proud of those who competed. Believe me when I say they deserve a pat on the back for their efforts. This competition was an extremely difficult task to complete.



Simulated Crash Site Near Dolly Sods Wilderness Area



Scenes from the Recent
West Virginia Wing
Cadet Advisory Council
Meeting



2005 West Virginia Wing Cadet Encampment at Camp Dawson, Kingwood, WV

Lt Col Dennis D. Barron
Director of the Encampment

Camp Dawson, the West Virginia National Guard Training Base, located near Kingwood, WV, once again played host to the annual West Virginia Wing Cadet Summer Encampment. This year, a total of 69 West Virginia Wing cadets and 11 out-of-state cadets, along with 11 senior members, attended the week long encampment. The encampment was commanded by Lt Col Dennis Barron, a veteran of many past encampments, and Lt Col David Caudill.

Throughout the week, the cadets enjoyed a full schedule of activities and classes that were both educational and lots of fun. The cadets built and launched their own model rockets, completed a First Aid course, earned their CAP Radio Operators cards, flew in Blackhawk and Huey helicopters, drove golf carts through an obstacle course while visually impaired from wearing Fatal Vision Goggles, fired various weapons in a electronic simulator, and participated in sports and drill competition. The cadets also made good use of the base swimming pool, climbed to new heights on the rock wall, conquered the confidence course, and attempted to master the Leadership Reaction Course. In between all these activities, the cadets honed their skills in drill and ceremonies, learned how to make a bed the military way, practiced their leadership skills, enjoyed a picnic dinner, and made lots of new friends around the Wing and in neighboring Wings. One of the highlights of this year's encampment was a whole day devoted to learning land and water survival skills. Instructors from the 167th Air Wing of the WV Air National Guard in Martinsburg, spent one morning teaching the cadets how to build shelters, obtain food and water from the wilds, and how to navigate through the woods. In the afternoon, the instructors took the cadets to the base pool for water survival training.

The encampment was capped off on the last day with a formal Pass and Review Parade, followed by the graduation ceremonies. During the graduation ceremonies, the following awards were handed out to some of the outstanding cadets of the encampment:

Outstanding Cadet of the Encampment: C/A1C **Erica Ferguson**, Wheeling Squadron;

Outstanding Cadet Officer: C/2Lt **Justin Ross**, Parkersburg Squadron;

Distinguished Graduate Awards: C/CMSgt **Chris Mason**, Martinsburg Squadron;

A1C Class Jeffrey Majarian, Delaware Wing; C/A1C **Cody Khune**, Parkersburg Squadron; and

C/SSgt Joleen Dawson, Clarksburg Squadron;

Outstanding NCO Award: C/CMSgt **Joshua Khune**, Parkersburg Squadron;

Most Improved Cadet: C/Amn **Andrew Mitchell**, Martinsburg Squadron;

Honor Flight: **Alpha Flight** - Commander: C/2Lt **Austin Ross**, Parkersburg Squadron

C/Lt Col Roger Pettit, of the Charleston Cadet Squadron, served as the Cadet Commander of the encampment. He commanded the cadet cadre, which was divided into three squadrons and six flights of cadets.



Pass In Review

WV Wing Conducts SLS at Parkersburg

On 17-18 Sep 05, 15 members of the WV Wing and 2 members of the PA Wing attended a Squadron Leadership School at Parkersburg. Graduating from the course were the following: Maj Bradford Williams, WV020; Capt Glenn Thompson, WV040; 1Lt Don Williams, WV040; 2Lt Timothy Harmon, WV040; 2Lt Russell Voelker, WV020; SFO Amanda Brubaker, WV013; SM Stephen Antolini, WV093; SM Ellen Brown, WV040; SM Larry Conaway, WV040; SM Robert Coulter, WV040; SM Scott Croskey, PA133; SM Bryan Haggard, WV060; SM Jared Hostetler, PA133; SM Matthew Jarrett, WV099; SM Charles Pickering, WV040; SM Randy Ruble, WV040; SM James Sizemore, WV013.



Additional 2005 Cadet Encampment Photographs



Building the Rockets



Launching the Rockets



Drill Practice

Many Thanks to the 2001-2005 WV Wing Staff

A new era will begin on 22 Oct 2005 as the new Wing Commander and his staff for 2005-2009 take over. Outgoing Commander, Col Rod Moody, and his staff wish to extend their congratulations and good wishes to them for a successful term.

The accomplishments of the Wing for the past four years under the command of Col Moody, have been commendable. The first priority identified by the new administration was to seek the “ways and means” to have the WV CAP seen as a more legitimate organization with the West Virginia State Legislators, and the West Virginia State Office of Emergency Services. 9/11 was an unfortunate event, but it brought the Civil Air Patrol visibility as we participated in photographing the twin towers from the air after the attack, and many important sites in our own state for the WVOES; CAP proved it's self in time of need.

When the new Command Staff took charge, lots of changes had to be made. The most crucial change was the West Virginia law that determined how the WV Wing could spend its state appropriated funds. The state code only allowed the Wing to expend state funds for: aviation education training, to defray maintenance, repair and replacement costs of wing aircraft, to purchase and obtain supplies and equipment, and to maintain a communication network for the CAP in West Virginia. This constraint was an obstacle to the success of supporting the overall CAP mission; it needed to be changed. Without the utmost support from the State Director of the Aeronautics Commission, Mrs. Susan Chernenko, Mr. Norm Roush, from the Department of Transportation; House Speaker, Mr. Bob Kiss, and Senior Senator, William Sharpe, the change in the code would not have been possible. It took months, many meetings, and telephone calls to be heard and recognized. Mrs. Chernenko conferred with a lobbyist that saw the problem immediately in the wording of the code. He contended that by inserting four words, “but not limited to”, into the state code, would constitute a change that would allow the bill to pass and provide us what we needed. Thus, with all the groundwork going back months, Col Moody spoke before the WV Senate Finance Committee; our bill (H.B.2357), passed unanimously in both chambers, on 7 Mar, 2003. Now it would be possible to fully support all of the missions of Civil Air Patrol in West Virginia.

Currently we have fifty-one WV State Legislative Squadron members who give great support to CAP. The WV Wing appropriation for 2005-2006 has an additional \$10,000 for our units, which brings the total state appropriation to almost a quarter of a million dollars.

Col Moody would like to thank his Command Staff for their dedication and support; as they traveled many miles to Charleston regardless of the weather, sometimes working as late as 11:00 pm. The Wing Staff consisted of: Col Bobby Anderson, Col Gene Dalton, Col Mike Nimo, Lt Col Dave Brooks, Lt Col Gene Thorn, Lt Col Connie Moody, Lt Col Ron Harmon, Lt Col Ronald Slaughter, Lt Col Brian Blair, Lt Col Russell Garretson, Lt Col Dennis Barron, Lt Col David Caudill, Lt Col Virgil Martin, Lt Col Robert Bell, Lt Col Rodney Broadwater, Maj Cathy Slaughter, Maj Amelia Brooks, Maj Beverly Miller, Maj Kevin Ray, Maj Carol Markley, Capt Deborah Boggs, Capt Warren Weakley, Capt Jeff Schrock, Capt Robert De Vere, Capt Brian Shatzer, 1Lt Ross White, 1Lt Roger L. Bennet, 1Lt David Erwin, 1Lt Richard Judy, 1Lt Denver Fisher, and 2Lt Steve Kimble.

Their outstanding performance has not gone unappreciated and unrecognized. Surely the members of the West Virginia Wing recognize that the success of an organization does not depend only on one person, it stems from a combination of people with varied expertise and many talents. May the next Command Staff enjoy similar successes of this last four years and take the West Virginia Wing of Civil Air Patrol to new heights of excellence.

Morgantown Composite Squadron Personnel Provide Crash-Site Security for a Helicopter Crash at Jackson's Mill Airport



Major Donald Robbins
Logistics Officer
Morgantown Composite Squadron

On 4-5 July 2005, personnel from the Morgantown Composite Squadron provided site security for a small helicopter that crashed at Jackson's Mill WV (Bennett Louis Field). The aircraft was completely destroyed by fire; however, the pilot was not injured. Squadron personnel involved in the mission were Maj D. Robbins, Lt E. Judy, Lt R. Jones, Cadet D. Efaw, and Cadet A. Huggins.

CAP Honors TSgt Robert E. Hall of the 167th Airlift Wing

Lt Col Dennis D. Barron
Inspector General
West Virginia Wing



Members of the Martinsburg Composite Squadron recently recognized the superb support and assistance of one of the members of the 167th Airlift Wing of the West Virginia Air National Guard. TSgt Robert E. Hall, one of the Air National Guard recruiters from Martinsburg, was presented a CAP Appreciation Plaque denoting his outstanding support of the Civil Air Patrol cadet program. TSgt Hall has been very supportive of the CAP cadet program and has spoken often to the squadron cadets encouraging them to advance leadership skills and expanding their knowledge of aerospace education. During the past year, TSgt Hall set up incentive flights for the Martinsburg Squadron on the Air Guard's C-130 aircraft. A few months later, he made arrangements for the Air Guard to fly members of the Martinsburg and Morgantown Squadrons to the U. S. Air Force Museum, at Wright-Patterson AFB. Most recently, TSgt Hall helped to coordinate some of the training classes conducted during the WV Wing Summer Encampment, especially the outstanding land and water survival training at this year's encampment.

TSgt Hall was presented his special plaque by Lt Col Dennis D. Barron and members of the Martinsburg Squadron. Shown in the photo above are some of the cadets who joined Lt Col Barron in honoring TSgt Hall during a recent squadron meeting. (left to right) Cadets CMSgt Chris Mason, CMSgt Mark Guiney, CMSgt Andrew Hume, and C/B Alex Keefe posed with TSgt Hall.

Martinsburg Composite Squadron Personnel Visit the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB



2nd Lt Russell G. Voelker
Public Affairs Officer
Martinsburg Composite Squadron

On Saturday, June 4th, 82 seniors and cadets traveled to the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The trip was made courtesy of aircraft and personnel from Martinsburg's 167th Air National Guard. One C-130 carried 28 members from the Martinsburg and Morgantown Squadrons (pictured above) while the other 54 personnel were from various Virginia Wing Squadrons. A scavenger hunt organized by the 167th ANG and the museum kept the cadets busy while the seniors enjoyed touring the museum. During the trip the flight crews answered many questions and also allowed visits to the cockpit.

(Photo by Cadet Kaydee Danno)

West Virginia Wing HQ Conducts Purchasing Seminar



Maj Beverly Miller, WV Wing Finance Officer conducts the Purchasing Procedures Seminar attended by all Squadron Commanders and Finance Officers. This seminar was provided to train the units how to properly utilized the 2005-2006 FY West Virginia state appropriated Funds.



StarBase Academy Program Honors Instructors

Lt Col Dennis D. Barron
Inspector General
West Virginia Wing

Two outstanding Aerospace Education instructors were honored recently for their contributions to the 2005 WV Wing Summer Encampment. Capt. Christal Akers, Aerospace Education Officer for the Martinsburg Squadron, and Ms. Sherra Triggs, Instructors for the StarBase Academy Program of the West Virginia Air National Guard, were presented Certificates of Appreciation by Lt Col Dennis D. Barron, Encampment Commander. Both of the aerospace education instructors taught a model rocketry class during the summer encampment and helped the cadets and senior members build and launch their model rockets. Over 100 model rockets were successfully launched on the second day of the rocketry class taught at Camp Dawson.



Left to Right: Capt Christal Akers, Lt Col Dennis Barron, and Ms Sherra Triggs

This is the second year that the StarBase Academy program has supported the WV Wing Encampment. The StarBase Academy program is sponsored by the Air National Guard and introduces fifth grade students in Berkeley and Kanawha Counties to the world of aerospace education. The StarBase Academy program is a perfect lead into the Civil Air Patrol cadet program.

Capt. Akers has been assisting the StarBase program in Martinsburg for the past three years, not only introducing the students to the CAP program, but also teaching several of the aerospace education modules to the StarBase students. When not teaching aerospace education to CAP cadets, Capt. Akers is a third grade teacher in the Morgan County school system. She has received both the WV Wing and the Middle East Region's Aerospace Education of the Year Award. Both aerospace education instructors were very impressed with, and highly complimentary of, the encampment participants. Ms. Sherra Triggs noted the knowledge and enthusiasm shown by the cadets and voiced her interest in returning to help with the encampment next year.

The awards presentation took place during the StarBase Academy's Kids Camp, a week long aerospace education course taught during the summer for children of Air National Guard members.

West Virginia Wing Win's National Disaster Relief Award

Maj Amelia G. Brooks
Editor, Mountain Flyer

Colonel Rodney F. Moody accepted, on behalf of the West Virginia Wing Civil Air Patrol, the Disaster Relief Award during the Civil Air Patrol's 2005 National Recognition Ceremony held Aug 20th at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri.

Col Moody was presented with the award during the organization's national conference. The award represents outstanding commitment, effectiveness and sacrifice, qualities that exemplify the conference's theme **"Everyday Heroes: The Faces of the Civil Air Patrol."**

The Civil Air Patrol performs 95 percent of all continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. More than 56,000 volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the almost 25,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing "Missions for America" for more than 60 years.

Mercer Squadron Building Fund Nears Goal



Maj Jim Coiner
Public Affairs Officer
Mercer County Composite Squadron

The Mercer County Composite Squadron's fund raising campaign for its own free standing building at the Mercer County Airport is moving closer to its goal. The atmosphere was electric at a recent squadron meeting when Squadron Commander Maj Danny Caldwell, announced a gift of \$150,000 from a single confidential contributor. At a later meeting in the month Maj Caldwell announced another grant of \$100,000 from the Hugh I. Shott, Jr. Foundation of Bluefield. An important part of the fund raising process has been by the members of the squadron with pledges of over \$3,000. Since

CAP is willing to share the facility with other emergency services organizations the Mercer County Commission has agreed to pay the utility bills for the new building. Further, the Mercer County Airport Authority has offered a 20-year lease for a prime piece of real estate at the airport for \$1.00 a year. Over three years ago, then Squadron Commander Lt Col Larry Smith appointed a building committee to pursue what was largely his dream --- a new building for the squadron. The initial committee consisted of Lt Col Smith, Maj Richard Goldstein, Capt Ted Kessinger, Capt Terry Childress, Capt C.W. Blankenship, Lt Elwood Vaughn chaired by Maj Jim Coiner. Later, Maj Caldwell joined the committee when he became the Squadron Commander. All members of the squadron have been involved in most aspects of the project. Other squadrons in West Virginia were consulted about their experiences when they built their respective facilities. The building committee decided to go for a "turn key" facility large enough to serve the needs of CAP now and into the future. For example, there will be room in the 115 ft. building for the temporary billeting of emergency crews such as Air National Guard pilots during times of floods and other emergencies. Cots, showers and minimum kitchen facilities are planned. In addition, the hangar portion of the building has been designed to accommodate CAP's new GA8 AirVan should the need arise to temporarily base the aircraft at Bluefield.